

Message Text

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73

ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6585

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NDJEMENA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

INFO AMMEBASSY ABIDJAN 2803

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

UNCLAS NIAMEY 3236

AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: SCOPE OF WORK FOR STUDY ON ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE
DROUGHT

REF: A. STATE 207415(NOTAL); B. ABIDJAN 7282(NOTAL); C. ABIDJAN 7273

1. AS REQUESTED REFTEL A RDO DISCUSSED BERGER STUDY WITH DR FEI
WHO BELIEVES FED, FAC, FAO STUDIES DO NOT OVERLAP SCOPE
PROPOSED STUDY. HE BELIEVES MEDIUM AND LONG TERM PLANNING WOULD
REQUIRE BASELINE DATA DEVELOPED BY BERGER INDICATED REFTEL B.
HE SUGGESTS CLOSE COORDINATION WITH MIT SINCE THEY MAY HAVE
SIMILAR PLANS TO AMASS THIS INFORMATION. INDEED, THE BERGER
STUDY MAY BE MORE EXPEDIENT METHOD FOR DEVELOPING AND UPDATING
SAHEL BADELINE DATA SINCE IT APPEARS BERGER ALREADY PREPARED TO
MOUNT STUDY.

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2. ADO/NAMEY, HOWEVER, WONDERS WHETHER DATA COLLECTION EFFORT
METHODOLOGY IS REALLY APPROPRIATE TO GATHERING VALID BASELINE DATA?
SINCE EXTRAPOLATIONS OF ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF DROUGHT WILL
DEPEND ON COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF PRE-DROUGHT DATA, OF WHICH
THERE IS LITTLE IF ANY DATA WHICH IS RELIABLE, WE DONT SEE HOW
THESE EXTRAPOLATIONS THEMSELVES WILL BE VALID. ALSO, IF THE ENIIRE
COLLECTION EFFORT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IN ALL SIX COUNTRIES IN
75 DAYS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT ALL THAT CAN BE EXPECTED IS A
COMPILED LIST OF EXISTING DATA; NOT DEVELOPMENT OF EMPIRICAL DATA
WHICH WOULD, WE BELIEVE, BE MORE ACCURATE. IN OTHER WORDS, WHILE
WE AGREE WITH THE NEED TO DEVELOP SUCH BASELINE DATA, AND TO
ESTIMATE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DROUGHT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WE
BELIEVE THAT'S NOT NECESSARILY WHAT WE'LL GET FROM THE STUDY.

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